



Betty Allnutt doesn't seem to have known about the party, which you can read about in Tributes on page 20.



This team jitterbugged all the way from Glen Burnie. See more Family Album pictures on page 2.



Nikki Gruber found a great way for young folks to spend their summer. See Local News page 15.



Read about these well-travelled windows in Monocacy Foundations on page 8.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

August 24, 2012

Volume IX, Number 12.

Ag Leaders' Luncheon

By John Clayton

Montgomery County's agricultural leaders had their annual luncheon in a packed room at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds last week, hosting a bevy of county politicians, University of Maryland officials, and officers, directors, and representatives of over twenty organizations that support agriculture in the county.

As the event program stated, "The Ag Leaders' Luncheon is held in recognition of the strong leadership in the Montgomery County Agricultural Community," and the event is sponsored by the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, the University of Maryland Extension Montgomery County Office, the Montgomery County Agricultural Services Division, and Department of Economic Development.

County Executive Ike Leggett once again attended the luncheon and contributed the



Craig Rice and Ike Leggett present Drew and Robert Stabler with a proclamation.

keynote remarks. The county council was well-represented at the luncheon, a testament to this year's redistricting, which split the Ag Reserve among four council members, heretofore being almost entirely represented by District 2 Councilman Craig Rice. Council President Roger Berliner of District 1, which now includes Poolesville and pretty much everything south of Route 28, was

represented by his senior adviser Lou D'Ovidio. (Editor's note: north of Route 28—Barnesville and Clarksburg—will continue to be represented by Mr. Rice. Dawsonville, Beallsville, and Dickerson are now divided communities.) Nancy Navarro, District 4, which includes the Laytonsville area, and Nancy

-Continued on Page 16.

London 2012 Olympic Games

By Maureen O'Connell

I recently returned from London where I attended the 2012 Olympic Games. Contrary to the predictions of the doom and gloom merchants, the naysayers, and Mr. Romney, London was indeed prepared and ready to host the games. The British brilliantly brought home the gold, figuratively and literally.

Every Olympics brings to life a global village, and this year was no exception. The 2012 Games hosted 204 nations

in twenty-six sports in thirty-nine disciplines at thirty-four venues with 10,490 athletes competing in 302 medal events over nineteen competition days. For the first time in Olympic history, every nation had a team that included women.

The predictions of failure for Great Britain as an Olympic host centered on: poorly-planned



At the London Olympics.

-Continued on Page 9.

Family Album



David Weitzer and Dee Willard at the Ag Leaders' Luncheon.



Ike Leggett with Fair Queen Samantha Brown, Fair King Michael Cropp, Dairy Princess Julia Doody, and Miss Farm Bureau Susan Hilton.



County Executive Ike Leggett at the fair, helping the Rockville Lions dip ice cream.



Monocacy Lions and ice cream dippers Jack Davis, Gary Burdette, Dan Yates, and Christopher Jones.



The Poolesville Day Committee gathered for pizza in the park at their planning meeting.



Kids bouncing at the Farmers' Market equals kids who will sleep well at night.




It's a family affair at the Doug Bell music concert in the park.



It was a sellout crowd at the Troop 496 installation of two new Eagle Scouts.

Karen H. Alegi, Attorney



"I just want to know my rights."

The first question I often hear from a potential client who is facing divorce is, "what are my rights?"

Regardless of whether you, or your spouse, have moved out yet, you should seek legal advice if you think your marriage may be ending. An experienced divorce attorney can discuss the legal process and requirements for divorce with you. She or he will also discuss your rights and obligations with respect to your spouse and your property.

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Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Alleged Sexual Assault:

18900 block of White's Ferry Road: Two Gaithersburg residents were riding in a car and pulled off the main road in order to have sexual intercourse. An argument broke out, and the female alleged that the male assaulted her. Investigation is continuing.

Burglary: 17100 block of Titus Way.

Assault: 17400 block of Soper Street, 19900 block of Martinsburg Road.

Theft: 19500 block of Fisher Avenue.

Disorderly conduct complaints: 17500 and 17600 blocks of Kohlhoss Road, 17100 block of Spates Hill Road.

Past Crime

August 24, 1911 The Touring Club of America lodged a protest concerning certain speed traps

being operated in the Maryland suburbs. They cited one in particular on the road between Rockville and Gaithersburg. Sheriff Vielt had acquired a touring car and had laid in wait for speeding motorists from Washington. In his car sat a justice of the peace who held court by the roadside and either fined speeders or committed them to the county jail.

August 26, 1912 William Montgomery and Charles Church were arrested and charged with selling whiskey at the camp meeting in Washington Grove. Sheriff Howard and Deputy Whalen had attempted to arrest the men, but they fled through the woods, causing a chase of over a mile. It was reported that several shots were fired. Sheriff Howard had received complaints that whiskey was being sold, so he had watched people getting off the train at Gaithersburg. He saw two men with heavy suitcases that contained bottles of liquor. When he tried to question the men, they ran, leaving their suitcases behind.

August 26, 1912 Deputy

Sheriff Shaw made a canvas of the county to determine if anyone was in violation of the Sunday laws. He made two arrests at Glen Echo and then made his way to Chevy Chase Lake where he arrested one man on a charge of selling ice cream on a Sunday.

August 30, 1906 Deputy Sheriff Beavers was seriously assaulted by his brother in Rockville. It was reported that Thomas Beavers and the deputy had argued about some personal property. Then Thomas picked up a club and beat his brother about the head, rendering him unconscious. Thomas was arrested and placed in jail.

September 5, 1902 Two prisoners escaped from the Montgomery County Jail by scaling a thirty-foot wall. Jailer Beavers was in the residence portion of the jail when the escape occurred. He said that he found no rope or any other instrument that would

have allowed the men to climb the wall. He said that the only way for them to have ascended the wall would have been with the help of other prisoners. Authorities were looking for James Steptoe of Prince George's County and Roger Parker of Montgomery County.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

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Commentary

Don't Bet on It

By John Clayton

I try to keep up on Maryland events for any number of reasons, but I have to admit I have been lost by what has been going on with gambling. I see the headlines, the streaming banners online, and I read some of the stories, but after a while, my eyes just glaze over. Not so long ago, we were agonizing over whether to allow slot machines into the Free State, and now, a few years later, we're becoming Monte Carlo by the Bay. What happened? I feel like they made *Back to the Future 5* and Biff has taken over the Maryland State House. I am very confused.

Sure enough, trickling across my monitor on a news site, is Governor Martin O'Malley signing legislation approving more gambling—but wait, there's more. There is going to be—don't spoil it—that's right: another referendum. Why do they even bother voting? What are we paying those people for, anyway? Why should they go to Annapolis and eat expense-account oysters on the half shell day and night and then tell us to make all the decisions. Why don't we get any free oysters? Don't get me started.

I am not, I assure you, opposed to gambling. I wrote as such some years ago, back when we were more innocent, and while it disappointed a few of my anti-gambling friends here and there, so be it; however, I like a little candy-coating with my dark side decisions. We approved gambling because it was good for the horses. Remember? Slot machines will be at the race-tracks, and the racetracks will need horses to race, and this will help the equine industry, encouraging open space preservation. It was so pure, so clean, so tidy. By the time the initiative got on the ballot (we had to wait until that Republican governor got out of office so he wouldn't get the credit), it was not only horses and open land we were saving but the

schools. The ballot initiative was even named something to do with schools. We were so noble back then—now, not so much. Prince George's County, if I remember right, wanted nothing to do with this at all, with strong citizen and church resistance. Now, we voters will decide whether to add yet another casino in Prince George's County. I see also that the National Harbor there on the eastern shore of the Potomac is the favored PG location, and Rosecroft Raceway (remember the horses?) may be left out entirely. The real battles are over the money for casino-operating companies, with those that already have casinos and those that want to have casinos and those that favor this or that site over other sites, all lobbying and tossing money around to get their way. The circus is definitely in town.

I'd love to wrap up the column with a little display of moral fiber and take a strong stand against slot machines and table games, to say nothing of this ripe-for-corruption mix we now have brewing, but I'm afraid I'm fine with it. If that's how Maryland wants to pay its bills, it's probably what we ought to do. Gasoline tax, anyone? Another bump in the sales tax? I thought not. Hold your nose and vote. We need the money. One good thing about turning into Las Vegas—we only need to add the table games to get there—is that we've already got the spectacular shows and magic acts.

I'm losing track of the referendums that will be on the ballot in November, and it's only August. All that open space we preserved with racetrack gambling will probably be filled with signs.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Rande(m) Thoughts

Running the Race but Never Leaving the Starting Line

By Rande Davis

It's been a long time since I was a jogger. As chairman of the PACC 5K annual run/walk on Poolesville Day for the past few years, I keep thinking about entering it again, recalling the time I ran in the first one twenty years ago. The problem is I keep thinking about it and thinking about it, until finally the thought fades into the clouds.

My annual defense for not doing so is that by the time I actually consider entering, it's early summer and time to organize the event. Even If I

have an ounce of motivation, the heat helps me push the idea whence it came—deep in the utter recesses of my mind.

You'd think I would have gotten some inspiration to rub off on me from at least one of the many people who dedicate themselves to participate every year.

Even if I am able to get past the heat factor, I think up a better excuse: I am too old. Then the faces of Heinz Bachmann (79), Paul (92) and Betty (85) Hough (92), or Ray Hoewing (80) keep fluttering through my mind, and my age just won't cut it as an excuse. Beyond their advanced age, they all have another thing in common, being thin and svelte. This, thankfully, gives me another handy excuse: I am too heavy. Then the vision of Lauren Lee comes to mind. She ran with her dad, Tom, last year despite the extra pounds, and I now realize

—Continued on Page 17.

Daytripper

Chill Out: Crystal Grottoes Caverns

By Ingeborg Westfall

August's dog days have arrived, making it seem preferable to park ourselves in front of a fan and not leave the house. Personally, I loathe the energy-sapping heat and humidity that so often define this time of year, enveloping us, frying our brains and making it difficult to come up with ideas for fun, perhaps educational, reasonably close-by events; locations; county, state, or regional attractions.

Late-summer hot weather, though, is tailor-made for one of

Maryland's unique attractions, Crystal Grottoes Caverns in Boonsboro. It's the only show caverns in the state and, according to its website, boasts more formations per square foot than any other known cave, and the thing to remember in August is that its temperature is a reliably cool, even chilly fifty-four degrees Fahrenheit.

Mind you, this is not a highly-manicured place; "naturally kept" describes it pretty well. It hasn't changed much since being discovered in 1920 during quarry operations in search of gravel. Opened to the public in 1922, Crystal Grottoes Caverns is now operated by the grandson of the founder.

About a third of the known extent of the cave is open to tours. The passageways are

well-lighted but narrow, only four-to-six feet wide, and are almost continuously lined or covered by white-to-ivory formations from stalactites to stalagmites, and including forms with fanciful-sounding names like bacon, soda straws, drapery, and blankets. The informative and enthusiastic tour guides point out dinosaur shapes and other child-appealing forms. There's also a feature I found amazing and other-worldly: a small, beautiful, quiet pool maintained by drip water. Visitors are discouraged from touching any of the fragile formations.

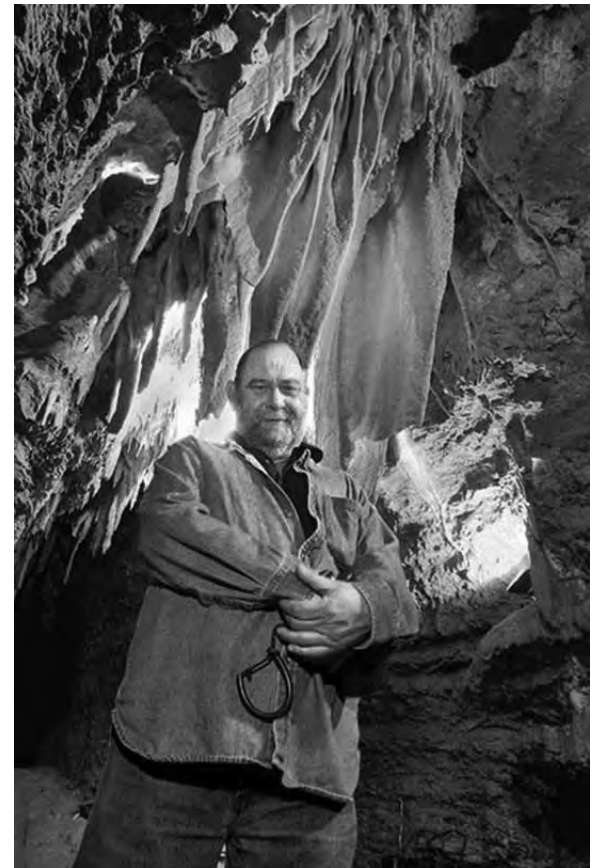
After one's tour, it's possible to have a picnic lunch in the shaded area around the caverns and visitor center; there's even a pleasant stream gurgling nearby. On a hot summer's day, it's a lovely place to rest for a few minutes.

Depending on how early you started your day of exploring, you might have much of the day remaining after your tour, even after a picnic lunch. Instead of a picnic, you might choose to head into nearby Hagerstown for its choice of interesting restaurants. I've enjoyed lunch at Schmankerl Stube, which serves first-rate Bavarian food, or you might opt to seek out the Hagerstown Outlets, where you can shop and eat as well.

If you're less interested in shopping and more interested in Maryland's history, consider several nearby sites. For instance, a stark contrast to the natural beauty of Crystal Grottoes is Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg, site of the Battle of Antietam (a.k.a. Battle of Sharpsburg). A national

park, hot and windswept on the day I visited, it felt like a haunted place, and it was easy to picture it as the site of the bloodiest one-day battle in American history where some 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing after twelve hours of fighting on September 17, 1862. You can take a guided tour, a walking tour on your own, or buy a CD and do an auto tour (a good idea if the heat is intolerable or everyone's tired). If you visit, consider that Antietam will observe the 150th anniversary of the battle on September 15 to 17, 2012, with tours, children's activities, living history programs, and more. After that, if you've any time or energy left, there's always South Mountain State Battlefield and Washington Monument State Park in Middletown.

More information on Crystal Grottoes Caverns is available on its website www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com or by phone at 240-217-7623. The National Park Service has masses of information on Antietam on its website www.nps.gov.



Cooling off in the Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

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Things to Do

Time to Register for the PACC 5K Race on Poolesville Day

Area runners, joggers, and walkers can go to poolesvillechamber.com to register for this year's annual 5K race on Poolesville Day. Registering early can save you some money.

August 24

Summer Concert in the Park

Featuring: Stone Age Rhapsody
7:00 p.m.

August 25

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Felix Soho
9:30 p.m.

August 25 and 26

Poolesville in the Civil War

Attention history buffs: HMD special two-day event at the Old Town Hall, featuring a collection of Civil War artifacts found in the area and rarely on public display. Guest speaker Jim Poole will lecture on the town and its role during the years of the war. Mr. Poole is in the process of writing a book from his research on the war. Also, local metal detectorist Greg Shores will display many of his artifacts (Sunday only) and share his expertise on the Civil War. Continual showing of the film: *Life in a War Zone, Montgomery County During the Civil War 1861-1865*.

Sunday: Free hot dogs and drink sponsored by the American Legion.

Jim Poole lecture on Poolesville's role in the Civil War given at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Open: noon to 4:00 p.m.

John Poole General Store and Museum

The General Store Museum, built in 1793, has furnishings based on authenticated period inventories. The museum features Civil War artifacts on display, Native American tools and toys, and antiques, collectibles, linen, notepaper, pottery, toys, books, and local art. Behind the Old Town Hall on Fisher Avenue

Open noon to 4:00 p.m.

August 31

PHS Varsity Football Home Game

Watkins Mill

6:30 p.m.

Summer Concert in the Park

Featuring: Soulbox

Whalen Commons

7:00 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Sooky Jump

8:30 p.m.

September 1

PHS Varsity Field Hockey Home Game

Magruder

10:00 a.m.

September 2

John Poole General Store Museum

Open 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

September 4

PHS Boys' Soccer Varsity Home Game

Springbrook

7:00 p.m.

September 5

PHS Girls' Tennis Home Match

Rockville

3:30 p.m.

PHS Girls' Volleyball Varsity Home Match

Paint Branch

6:30 p.m.

PHS Field Hockey Varsity Home Game

Walt Whitman

7:00 p.m.

September 6

Back to School Night

Poolesville Elementary School

6:30 p.m.

September 7

PHS Girls' Tennis Varsity Home Match

Magruder

3:30 p.m.

UMCVFD Bingo

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Doors open: 5:30 p.m.

Games start: 7:00 p.m.

September 8

UMCVFD Yard Sale and Pig Roast

Tax-deductible donations of non-clothing items accepted August 20 through September 6. Tables or spaces for rent--reserve by September 5. Check with UMCVFD office (Sue) for donations and table/space rental at 301-972-8719 or evenings (Ann) at 301-742-

8313.

Vendors welcome. Food available for purchase.

Yard sale from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pig/beef roast from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Local News

Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

Sign of the Times

At the August 20 town meeting, town manager Wade Yost announced that Poolesville had received a \$50,000 matching grant by the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County (Heritage Montgomery) in support of the town's proposed new street signage initiative.

As part of Poolesville's Streetscape Project, the signage initiative comes from a concept in uniform street signage called Gateway Signage Design and Development: to better enhance the attractiveness and image of the town through a uniform and themed use of signs and banners to support and promote a distinct identity for Poolesville, to help direct visitors to points of interest, and to support historical and cultural sites, all with a consistent color scheme and text.

The new sign designs will incorporate the icon of the Old Town Hall (now a Historic Medley District museum and cultural center) as a branding symbol. They will include new town entrance signage, general directional information, seasonal street pole banners, and wayfinder signs for pedestrians and vehicles. Wayfinder signs refer to signs that help direct persons to specific locations (i.e., schools, parks, the pool, historical sites, municipal buildings, and shopping areas).

The matching funds to accompany the Heritage Montgomery grant will come from development proffers by Winchester Homes that are designated for streetscape projects.

Belated Big Blue Buckets

Due to problems at the manufacturer, the new ninety-six- and thirty-two-gallon (for townhomes) blue recycling buckets to be used in the trash

pickup service for the town did not arrive as scheduled. The new date for delivery of the buckets to the town's Water Wastewater Treatment plant is August 27, and delivery of the containers will begin shortly thereafter, concluding by the end of the week. Residents who still do not have the new recycling bin by Wednesday, the scheduled recycling pickup day, should continue to use the one they had previously.

Oh, and One More Thing

At the August 20 town meeting, the commissioners were already scheduled to vote on proposed changes to its town ethics ordinance in response to new requirements by the state for all local governments; however, additional guidelines regarding procurement processes were recently issued by the state and added to its list of new mandates, so the vote was delayed until such time that those alterations could be added to the town's ethics ordinance or until additional items from the state are issued, whichever comes first. The new vote is scheduled to take place on September 10.

Charter Changes Pass with No Opposition

All six proposed amendments to the Poolesville Town Charter passed by unanimous vote by the commissioners. The amended changes covered deletions in language outlining qualifications for holding office as a town commissioner and removal of language that calls for individuals to be committed to the county jail for failure to pay certain fines. Another change provides authority to the county to collect property and sales taxes, something the county has done for years, but the old verbiage had not been updated since the days when the town collected its own taxes directly. The charter adjustments also included other outdated and inapplicable items and added language to better define the term "impact fees."

Where's a Cop When You Need One?

Montgomery County Police District 5 Commander Luther Reynolds, along with staff and local patrol officers, will attend

the September 10 Town Commissioners' meeting. This annual visit provides a localized update of crime and other police matters from the past year and allows for dialogue between Commander Reynolds and local residents. If you have concerns or questions, plan to attend the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall.

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**Monocacy's
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**Christ Episcopal
Chapel: Once a
Spiritual Foundation
In Barnesville**
By: Elisa Graff

War has a way of changing a landscape. Whether it is cannonballs that destroy a hillside of soldiers or the burning of an opposing town to the ground, war leaves its mark. While many wars haven't been fought on American soil, the Civil War left an indelible mark in the Monocacy area.

By the 1870s, the Civil War was over and the communities in our area were doing their best to get life back to normal, including Episcopalians in the Medley district. They had lost their church, known as Monocacy Chapel, once located in Beallsville when it was destroyed beyond repair by Union forces. The parishioners

petitioned local bishops to build a new chapel, promising to assume the cost of the maintenance. By 1872, the land for the chapel had been donated by Mrs. Eliza Hays and Mary Hays in Barnesville.

A prominent local carpenter and undertaker, W.T. Hilton, was enlisted to build the chapel. Hilton had made a name for himself in the area, having built many homes, adding additions to the Comus Inn, and building other chapels nearby. He often enlisted the help of son Clagett, and they would leave their signatures on each of their buildings. Somewhere in the attics, behind plaster walls, or in crawl spaces, Mr. Hilton and Clagett would sign their names, the dates, and, oftentimes, the day's weather, leaving behind hints of the past.

Near the end of 1878, the chapel was consecrated as Christ Chapel for the Episcopal Church and served as a place of worship for members of the congregation who were unable to make it to St. Peter's Church in Poolesville. The small Victorian-style chapel



Christ Episcopal Chapel.

was simple but inviting: A small entryway opened into the main sanctuary, a stove on each side warmed the chapel in the cold winters, pointed arch windows allowed light to flood in, and stained glass windows behind the alter added a touch of beauty. A

long shed garage extended from the left of the building.

Christ Chapel was like a second home for many throughout the late 1800s and well into

-Continued on Page 22.

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“Olympics” Continued From Page 1.

and -selected venue sites; inadequate number of security personnel; the aloof and unfriendly attitudes of Londoners; total chaos within the public transport system; and last but not least, the inevitable nasty, wet, unpredictable London weather. These concerns were all for naught. The verdict is in for London’s performance: It was the best-run, best-organized, and most-friendly Olympic Games in recent history.

A big cost of hosting an Olympics (especially the summer games) is building venues for the sporting events and hospitality. In the beginning, there was some controversy regarding the use of existing stadiums and horse parks; this choice would have resulted in a largely spread out and less compact and accessible area for the visitors and athletes. Olympic Park was carved out of a run-down section of East London. It contained housing for the athletes, the Olympic Stadium, the Aquatic Center, a velodrome, and food and hospitality centers. The tennis competition was held at Wimbledon. The wonderful, expansive, leafy Hyde Park was put to good use. You did not necessarily need tickets to view many of the events there, as they were held in the open parkland. The Serpentine, a twenty-eight acre lake that snakes through the middle of Hyde Park in Kensington, was the site for the swimming phase of the triathlon, pentathlon, and marathon. It is usually home to ducks, geese, swans, and the occasional Lab. The many paved walkways through the park provided space for the running and cycling phases. All the equestrian events—eventing, dressage, and show jumping—were held at Greenwich, a short boat ride down the Thames. I think it was a brilliant choice of locale. The 183-acre Greenwich Park is Great Britain’s oldest Royal Park, dating back to 1433, when Henry VI was king. The 23,000-seat stadium was situated in the shadows of the Royal Observatory, the National Maritime Museum, and the Old Royal Naval College with impres-

sive views across the Thames to London and Canary Wharf.

Some supposed mishaps worked out for the best. Right before the beginning of the games, the security company G4S admitted that they made a mistake and could not provide enough personnel for the job. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The government stepped up to the plate and offered the services of hundreds of young military men and women to watch over all the sporting venues. What a stroke of good luck! Instead of the usual bunch (though not all) of security people (think of your last nightmare experience at security at Dulles or JFK airports and you know what I mean), these smiling, pleasant people were not only quick, efficient, and omnipresent, but they were unfailingly cheerful.

The public transportation system (buses and the underground—metro to us) worked; they were on time and efficient. Now, if you asked a local commuter of his daily transport experiences, you would probably get a different story. I guess you can say that the Gods of Transport smiled on the London Games. Another good thing that the organizing committee did was to provide with each event ticket a pass on buses and the underground for the day of the ticketed event. Good planning.

After a very wet, chilly spring and early summer, even the British weather cooperated. For the two weeks that I was there, it was mostly sunny with temperatures in the seventies and eighties and low humidity.

The Brits get a bad rap when they are described as aloof and unfriendly to strangers. The unusual string of sunny, rain-free days softened the hearts of the Brits; there was a new friendliness and helpful attitude out and about in London. They were very proud to be British.

When it comes to discussing star athletes at Olympic Games, superlatives seemed to exist in great numbers: “Greatest Olympian of All Time,” U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps; “Fastest Man in the World,” Jamaican runner

Usain Bolt; “He’s a genius; there is nothing he can’t do,” British equestrian show jumper Nick Skelton (*The Times*), but, besides these super athletes, there are thousands of other highly-talented athletes who won medals this year that you probably have never heard of before the games, and you will probably never hear of again. The Olympics take place only every four years, and there is a high rate of burn-out at this level of athletics.

The world media described Phelps as “the human fish.” Paul McMullen, a long-time observer of Michael Phelps said: “The observation that most clearly differentiates Phelps from every other swimmer on Earth is this: Phelps can manipulate water like no human since Moses.” Look at some of these facts and you will understand from where his superiority in the water comes. “Phelps has large, paddle-like hands for pulling himself through the water, but it is his symbiotic command of the element that counts most. Physiology—Phelps’s heart pumps more than thirty liters of blood per minute to his major muscle groups, twice the average. He also has the ability to recover abnormally quickly. Torso—Phelps has broad shoulders, thin hips, a flat backside, a long torso and relatively short legs. The ratio translates to impeccable balance in the water and minimal resistance. Hips—powerful hips make Phelps a human dolphin as he undulates off the wall out of each turn. Flexibility—Phelps can hyperextend his elbows, knees, and ankles, a degree of flexibility that contributes to [his] being one of the greatest technicians swimming has ever seen. Feet—size 14 feet provide powerful propulsion” (*The Times*). Phelps is the most decorated Olympian of all time with twenty-two medals, with world records in the 100-meter butterfly, 200-meter butterfly, and the 400-meter individual medley. This info prompts the question and ignites a million pub arguments in London about whether the most medals is the same thing as “Greatest Olympian of All Time.”

Jamaica’s Usain Bolt, called

“The Rocket Man,” stopped the clock and made world Olympic history with his gold medals in the men’s 100-meter, 200-meter, and 4x100-meter relay. Before Bolt’s races began, the overall question regarding his upcoming races was: “Who is the fastest man in the world, and will Usain Bolt remain the fastest” (*The Times*). The following quote from *The Times* was made in reference to Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt, but it could apply to all top athletes: “It’s harder to stay on top than it is to get there.”

In the equestrian events, our American teams did not make a good showing. This will be a much-debated question in the next couple years. What can be done to change this trend before Rio in 2016? Much to the delight of the Brits, their dressage, show jumping, and eventing teams brought home gold and silver. Few nations have dominated any sport at the Olympics like the Germans have in dressage. Winning every gold medal since 1984, they were rarely afraid to dig deep into their pockets for the best horses. Great Britain has never won a dressage medal in the one hundred years that this discipline has been part of the games, but, this year, they made history and captured the gold medal both in team dressage and individual dressage. It has been sixty years since Great Britain won Showing Jumping Gold, but this year they came back and won the gold. Their eventing team narrowly missed the gold, but they still brought home the silver.

After every Olympics, the question of legacy comes up, and everyone wants an instant answer. Do the PR and attention that a host city or country receives justify the huge financial investment? Four years ago, the Olympic flame was lit in the Bird’s Nest Stadium in Beijing. Today, this \$423 million building is completely unused. Sydney and Athens, hosts of the 2000 and 2004 Olympics, respectively, have been left with similar white elephants. What will be London’s

-Continued on page 10.

Local News

BSA Troop 496 Registers 59th and 60th Eagle Scouts

By Rande Davis

Since Arthur Eldred became America's first Eagle Scout in 1912, only two percent of all boy scouts have achieved Eagle rank, the highest rank in boy scouting. On August 12, Robert Winning became the fifty-ninth Boy Scout from Troop 496 to attain this achievement, and Michael Haller, the sixtieth. Poolesville's Boy Scout Troop 496 held Honor Court at the Poolesville Town Hall to install its two newest Eagle Scouts.

Selected projects require a demonstration of leadership by the Eagle Scout candidate in organizing a team of sponsors and assistants to complete a worthy community service project. Robert, a 2012 graduate of Poolesville

High School, chose for his Eagle community project the installation of batting cages at Stevens Park.

In responding to the congratulatory comments upon his installation, Robert expressed his gratitude to the many people throughout the years who have help guide his scout experience. As regards his Eagle Scout project, Robert especially thanked town employees Wade Yost and Preston King, Commissioner Jim Brown, and Capital Fence for their dedication in assisting in the installation of the cages.

For Michael Haller, his achievement was made even more remarkable as he attained the rank prior to his junior year of high school. Michael, a scout since he was six years old, chose work at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department by initiating a recycling and refurbishment program. He helped start the recycling program and had his team make recycling bin holders and signs



Proud parents of our newest Eagle Scouts: Joe and Heather Haller with Michael, and Lillian and Craig Winning with Robert.

for their ball fields. He also added a fresh coat of paint on dugouts and the ceiling of the pavilion which houses picnic tables. He supervised over thirty people for more than 350 hours of planning and execution. He expressed appreciation for the support of his

fellow scouts, past scout masters, and for the assistance of Chief White with the Eagle project.

Robert is the son of Lillian and Craig Winning, and Michael is the son of Heather and Joe Haller.

"Olympics" Continued From Page 9.

legacy? It is too early to definitively say that all their plans for the future use of the Olympic Park will come to fruition, but the games' architects and planners have been very careful to consider its environmental impact. Many trees and wildflower meadows have already been put in place. Arts and culture have been integrated into the park. It was very important to hold everything to a human scale to help people connect with the site. The athletes' housing will be converted to apartments to be sold on the open market. All of the additions will go a long way to improving a section of London that has fallen into disrepair.

Despite having many talented men and women from developing and third world countries participating in this year's games, most of the medals earned are from industrialized countries: United States, Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and New Zea-

land. Talent plus money equals medals. On the other hand, China is a very strong competitor, and there was a good showing from Jamaica, Ukraine, North Korea, India, Cuba, Ethiopia, Kenya, Serbia, and Botswana. The prevalent feeling among current leading countries is that they expect to see more athletes from developing and third world countries in the future. Rio in 2016 might be a little early to see results, for it takes years to train athletes up to an Olympic level.

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Local News

A Very Potter Thing to Do

By Rande Davis

As a sophomore at Poolesville High School last year, Nikki Gruber started planning early what she wanted to do over the summer. Since she had a lot of experience with the JPMS Phantom Players and the PHS Midnight Players, she decided it would be fun to direct a play. After researching possible productions, she decided on *A Very Potter Musical*.

Originally titled *Harry Potter: The Musical*, it is a production with music and lyrics by Darren Criss and A.J. Holmes, and a book by Matt Lang, Nick Lang, and Brian

Holden. The story is a parody based on several of the *Harry Potter* novels. This comedic presentation has become quite popular at the college level, and it also had another advantage: It did not require paying a royalty to produce.

A Very Potter Musical tells the story of Harry Potter's return to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the trials and tribulations of adolescence, his participation in the House Cup Championship, and the return of the dark wizard Lord Voldemort to power.

Ultimately, Nikki gathered seventeen actors and two techs, received permission from the Town of Poolesville to use the Whalen Commons stage, and was able to gain valuable help from two non-student adults: Brian

-Continued on Page 16.



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**"Ag Leaders' Luncheon"
Continued on Page 1.**

Floreen, At Large, were also represented by aides.

State Senators Jennie Forehand, District 17, which includes Gaithersburg and the fairgrounds, and Karen Montgomery, District 14, which includes the northeast end of the Ag Reserve, were also in attendance, as were Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz, Gaithersburg City Council Vice President Ryan Spiegel, and our own Town of Poolesville commission president Eddie Kuhlman.

The University of Maryland was represented by extension director Rich Walter; Cheng I. Wei, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and William E. Kirwin, Chancellor and Executive Officer of the University System of Maryland.

Following welcomes and introductions by Chuck Schuster from the UM Extension Office and Barnesville's Kitty Cooley, a driving force behind the luncheon, and a well-received lunch courtesy of the Golden Bull, the Linthicum Family, and Lewis Orchards, Mr. Leggett and Mr. Rice addressed the crowd with strong support for agriculture,

the uniqueness of the Ag Reserve, and its contribution to economic development. State and county proclamations were presented in honor of Drew and Robert Stabler in recognition of their being placed in the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame. Awards were also presented to David Weitzer and George Lechliden.

Mr. Kuhlman managed to get Poolesville into the proceedings, via a little good-natured banter with Gaithersburg's Mayor Katz over which community was "the best in Montgomery County." Mr. Leggett made reference to the squabble but wisely did not take a side. Poolesville came up again during the remarks of both Billy Willard, an award winner from last year and a presenter this year, and Mr. Lechliden, who told the story of how they couldn't run the county fair back in the first years without animal pens from Poolesville. Mr. Lechliden elaborated, "We had to get the pens, set them up, and take them back."

**"A Very Potter Thing"
Continued From Page 15.**

Gross for the sound system and Kyle Brody of Poolesville Baptist Church who volunteered as the pianist for the production.

Through many afternoons of intense heat, the students diligently rehearsed the play for weeks prior to the scheduled performance date of August 9. When the big day came, a thunderstorm washed out the performance and the play was delayed until Sunday, August 12.

In Nikki's production, a female, Kelly Weber, who just graduated from PHS and will be attending Virginia Tech this fall, masterfully played the lead role. Other lead roles were wonder-

fully played by both Ryan Kight who played Harry's best friend Ron Weasley and Rebecca Morris portraying another Potter compatriot, Hermione Granger.

Students can be scattered over the summer, but by using text messaging, Nikki was able to keep the group together, focused, and dedicated to their performances.

Nikki hopes to join a down county theater group next summer, but with history her real passion, she expects her education after high school will follow that path rather than the stage.



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"Rande(m) Thoughts"
Continued From Page 4.

that last year's 5K was an early start to her long journey to weight loss and health ending with her participation on NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, which now has led to her new journey as an aspiring physical trainer.

With age and weight not working as effective excuses, I turn to one last excuse: my undiagnosed but (as all my friends tell me) struggle with attention deficit disorder. I know I could start the run, but could I focus long enough not to get lost?

Then I remember that with arrows on the road painted by Tim Pike and his son, Alex, and with signage up at each corner, I know that even I couldn't get lost. Besides, as a conservative, all I really would have to do is to remember, after the first turn, to keep turning right and most assuredly find my way back to the finish line. Nope, attention deficit isn't going to work either.

So, facing my quagmire and fresh out of excuses, I make one last attempt to prove to myself that not running in the race is okay by Googling "excuses not to run." Son-of-a-gun, there they are: seven more excuses to cop out. I think to myself, I'm set until the year 2019. Then I remember again Heinz, Paul, Betty, and Ray, all the kids on the high school cross country team, and the other

150 inspirational participants. I begin to cave, but the one that does me in is the woman who emailed asking if she could participate by using a baby-jogging stroller in the race (well, at least she won't be running with the baby in a backpack). Clearly if she has the time, surely I could find the time.

With all this inspiration, I went on the Poolesvillechamber.com site and called up an application form. As I started to fill it out, two last excuses came to mind just in the nick of time to save me. Hey, I thought, you're over sixty, overweight, and haven't been training, and besides, the 2012 Old Farmer's Almanac calls for a hurricane on the September 15 weekend. Whew, that was close. I almost had the whole form filled out. With a new sense of justification, I decided once again that I will run the race but not run in it. As I closed out the chamber website, a wee small voice whispered in my ear: Make a commitment. I realize I have no excuses not to run in 2013, so, with you and other readers as my witnesses, I have decided to make a commitment. I will walk, then walk faster, then begin to jog, all the while training for the 5K in 2013. There it is. There is no turning back. I will run and run in the 5K next year no matter how many more excuses Google can give me.



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Mama Boe

Critter vs. The Rooster

By Pam Boe

We are taking care of chickens this week—for a friend; a friend who thinks we are responsible and trustworthy; a friend who thinks enough of my children to invite us into this wonderfully fowl world of hers—so we gather eggs. We change water. We spread calcium pellets. We scatter feed.

We watch out for the resident black snakes who are known to show up from time to time—and we avoid the rooster...the Rooster...The Rooster.

Let me tell you something, my Critter is not a calm child. He is a bundle of energy, full of impulse and joy.

Roosters, apparently, do not appreciate these qualities in a human caretaker.

We had finished up the work

and egg-gathering portion of our visit one morning, and were embarking on our talking-to-the-hens portion, when Critter, in his usual exuberant fashion, bounded from the door of the barn to the coop. The Rooster, who was coming in the exact opposite direction, took umbrage at this and attacked Critter's calf.

There was horrible squawking. There was gut-wrenching crying. There was blood.

Fortunately, My Captain had come with us this morning, and hightailed Critter to our car and its very-oft-used first-aid kit. Critter's wound had to be well cleaned because Rooster claws are full of, well, crap. Nasty, bacteria-ridden chicken crap.

Varmint and I stayed at the coop and calmed all the occupants down, keeping a watchful eye on The Rooster from Hell, otherwise known as RFH. Frankly, it was already business as usual to them. Even the RFH, who simply strutted and cocked around, crowing, "That's right!

And there's more where that came from!"

Critter eventually stopped crying and asked me—in the most pitiful voice I've ever heard him use—if we could boil the eggs we gathered this morning so he could eat them for lunch.

"That would make me feel a lot better, Mom. It would serve him right, too."

I guess the lesson here is that vengeance isn't best served cold. It's best served Hard Boiled.

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Remembrance

Edwin Roberts Johnson, Sr.

Mr. Edwin Roberts Johnson, Sr., the beloved husband of the late Pauline Parramore Scott Johnson, to whom he was married to for sixty-one years, died quietly at his home on Breeze Hill Farm in Comus, Maryland on August 12, 2012.

Edwin was born September 7, 1917 and was the son of the late Hazel Lee Roberts Johnson and Walter Perry Johnson, Hall of Fame pitcher for the Washington Senators.

Edwin graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and the University of Maryland where he majored in agriculture. In his senior year at Maryland, he was president of student government and of his class. He was also president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society. Edwin

was all-conference in basketball and played second base for the Terps baseball team.

After graduating, he played baseball for the Yankees organization on farm teams in Norfolk, Virginia and Easton, Maryland. He worked on his dad's dairy farm in Germantown and raced thoroughbred horses in Maryland and Florida.

He also sold real estate and obtained his broker's license. In 1955, he purchased Breeze Hill Farm where he spent the rest of his life.

His sister Caroline Thomas, sons Ed, Jr. and David, daughters Elinor and Nancy, four grandsons, seven granddaughters, and seven great grandchildren survive Edwin.

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Tribute

Betty Allnutt: The Everwho Lady at 80

By Rande Davis

The gang from the C&C Club (informal group of women from Healthworks Fitness Center who come together for exercise, coffee, and conversation or as they tell it, mostly, coffee and conversation) and friends from Boyd's Presbyterian Church (BPC) gathered on the patio of Bassett's Restaurant on August 14 to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Boyd's Betty Allnutt.

The gathering of over forty friends at the afternoon tribute to Betty included many humorous stories about this vivacious woman who is described as one who was put on this earth to help others. For most of her adult life, Betty has taken care of many people in their times of need and was heralded as a great cook, often entertaining as many as twenty to thirty guests at a time at the Allnutt home for Sunday dinner. Betty has been a loyal volunteer at Shady Grove Hospital for over twenty-four years and also helps out at Ben Allnutt's Homestead Farm.

One of eleven siblings (seven

sisters and three brothers), Betty grew up working on her parents' farm, milking cows every morning and evening. Many of the revelers wore bandanas or cowgirl hats in recognition of her passion for all things western, and granddaughter Tina Barnesly baked and sculpted a delightful and delicious chocolate cake with a black and white cowhide-like frosting topped with a mini cowboy hat.

The Rev. Merritt Ednie from BPC was on hand for a blessing and to share humorous stories. He recalled a time during one church service when he announced the passing of Betty Burdette inadvertently as Betty Allnutt. Slowly, a hand rose near the back of the church, and Betty stood to inform him that she was not quite dead yet.

As the roast began, Betty seemed to enjoy the funny stories at her expense the most. On the birthday banner signed by all the guests was written the greeting, "Happy Birthday from the Everwhos," gently kidding the honored guest for her penchant for mixing up words and phrases,



Celebrating Betty Allnutt's birthday are: granddaughter Tina Barnesly, Carolyn and John Repass (brother), Betty, and sisters Gail Pearson, Barbara Manaia, and Sylvia Miller.

often changing the term whoever into everwho.

Betty thanked her friends for the gathering and made them

promise to come back again in eighty years to do it all over again.

*Flags were lowered
in honor of:*

August 21, 2012: Police Officer Adrian Morris of the Prince George's County Police Department who died in the line of duty on August 20, 2012.

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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

August 3, 1926 Raymond Funkhouser, president of the Washington County Law and Order League, was the guest speaker at the meeting of the Montgomery County Democrat Club held at the Poolesville Town Hall. It was the best-attended meeting of the year, and all in attendance agreed that better law enforcement was needed.

August 5, 1926 Raymond Pyles, a Poolesville area farmer, filed the necessary papers to make him a candidate for the office of sheriff.

August 9, 1924 Professor Edwin Broome, superintendent of the Montgomery County Schools, announced teacher appointments for the 1924-1925 school year. Thomas Pyle was appointed to be principal at the Poolesville School along with Virginia Gartrell, Ruth Beall, and Mary Fyffe as teachers. Esther Luhn was the new principal at the Sugarland School, and

Horace Davis at the Elmer School.

August 13, 1924 Deputy Game Warden Clyde Harris said that he had received numerous complaints about wild dogs destroying livestock. He said that anyone who left their dogs to run wild would be arrested and fined.

August 18, 1923 Poolesville merchants Thomas Hoskinson, Howard Spurrier, and Albert Wootton announced that they would not rebuild their stores after the recent fire that had destroyed their buildings. It was understood that all three had offers to buy the property where their stores had stood.

August 20, 1924 The Washington Clay Products Company announced plans to build a large brick manufacturing factory at Loughborough, Maryland located on the River Road. The company owned twenty-seven acres of land along the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at Barnesville that contained an immense deposit of shale. This rock would be mined and then shipped to the Loughborough

factory.

August 24, 1924 The Rockville Fair closed but not without many thrills for the large crowd that attended. During one of the automobile races, the auto of famous driver Riley Cumberland overturned and went airborne, flipping four times. He was badly bruised and taken to the Rockville Sanitarium. First prize in the calf-judging contest went to the Barnesville Boys' Calf Club. In the poultry contest, Naomi Butt of Poolesville placed third.

August 29, 1923 It was announced that the September primary election voting would be held at the Grange Hall at Barnesville and at the storeroom of J.W. Ricketts at Darnestown.

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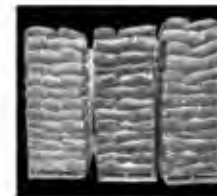


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**“Barnesville Chapel”
Continued From Page 8.**

the 1900s, but by World War II, attendance had dwindled and the congregation was no longer able to maintain the chapel as they had once promised. Many found it easier to be part of St. Peter’s as the roads to Poolesville had become easier to travel, and many were moving away from the rural towns of Barnesville and Bealls-

ville. In the early 1940s, with permission from the Bishops of the Washington, D.C. Episcopal Diocese, the chapel was sold to W.T. Hilton’s grandson, William B. Hilton. Hilton, like his grandfather, was a carpenter, and he built a workshop in the chapel. He constructed a room the length of the sanctuary and about half the width, putting up walls and a lower ceiling. Hilton built furniture there that many in the community still own. His grandson, Woody, remembers William adding coal to the stove in the workshop on cold morn-

ings, leaving to go to the post office, and, upon his return, finding it warm enough to get the day’s work done. The Hiltons have used the chapel for many purposes over the last seventy years: storage for furniture to rugs, the garage has been used to raise pigs for the Hilton children’s 4-H projects, and the workshop is still used to this day.

As any passerby can see, the upkeep of the chapel has been a challenge. The wood siding is all but stripped of any paint that may have once existed. The roof is in disrepair. Both stoves have been removed from the building, and the plaster around the ceiling is beginning to crumble. A fire in the entryway two years ago could have been the demise of the chapel, but the family noticed the smoke and quickly alerted the fire department. Many of the windows are boarded up. The stained glass windows were donated a few years ago to St. Peter’s Church for the Children’s Chapel. The Hilton family felt that the windows deserved a better

home rather than running the risk of losing them at Christ Chapel. Woody still uses the workshop for small projects, and many of his grandfather’s tools are still housed there. He would love to see it restored but doesn’t know where the money would come from or what the building could be used for. The family’s main focus is on their funeral home services across the street.

Christ Chapel may not look like it from the outside, but when you hear its story, it seems to be a symbol of hope and comfort.

For a religious community, it meant that life was getting back to normal after a time of upheaval throughout the country. For a local family, it is a warm place to grow with family and reconnect with ancestors of the past. Perhaps in the future it will see a new life and once again be a bright spot for the small town of Barnesville.

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